



PRESS RELEASE

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Missouri House of Representatives to Recognize National Donate Life Month

Team Missouri to be honored on House Floor for its work in raising awareness for organ and tissue donation.

Jefferson City, Mo. (March 19, 2011) – Right now, there are 110,000 Americans, including 1,652 Missourians, waiting for life-saving organ transplants. Thousands more are preparing for life-changing cornea and tissue transplants. During Donate Life Month this April, Donate Life Missouri will raise awareness about the growing need for donors with a special “Donor Day at the Capitol” on Wednesday, April 6, 2011.

During this special event at the Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City, Team Missouri, comprised of the Governor’s Organ Donation Advisory Committee (GODAC), Missouri organ procurement agencies, donor families and transplant recipients, will meet with state representatives to share the importance of encouraging Missouri residents to join the state’s first-person consent donor registry at www.donatelifemissouri.com.

In addition, Team Missouri members will ask senators to support House Bill 151, which will authorize a check-off box for the Organ Donor Program Fund to be added to the individual and corporate income tax forms and allow for a separate check donation to be sent in with payment of taxes. Funds will be used to promote organ donation in the state of Missouri and to maintain the state’s donor registry database.

Team Missouri members will host a booth in the Capitol rotunda featuring information, educational games and special surprises from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 6. In addition, Team Missouri will be formally introduced to the Missouri House of Representatives chamber to recognize its work in donor awareness.

Peter Nicastro, GODAC chairperson, said, “Missourians have been incredibly generous in donating to the organ donor registry and in signing up on the registry to be donors. More than 2.8 million Missourians are already registered! It is so easy to join, check or update your registration through www.donatelifemissouri.com. We are going to the Capitol to educate our political leaders about how important organ and tissue donation is to people in need.”

About Team Missouri

Team Missouri consists of Heartland Lions Eye Banks, Mid-America Transplant Services, Midwest Transplant Network, Missouri Kidney Program, the Missouri Department of Revenue and Gift of Life in Kansas City. Together, the team strives to encourage donor registry amongst Missourians to help meet the needs of Missourians who are in need of an organ or tissue transplant.

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